

The Henry Francisco House  
Allen Road, East of Grandview Avenue  
Borough of North Caldwell  
Essex County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-653

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Henry Francisco House  
Allen Road, East of Grandview Avenue  
Borough of North Caldwell  
Essex County, New Jersey

Owners: Mr. and Mrs. W. Searls Rose  
(72 Mountain Avenue, North Caldwell)

Date of Erection: In or about 1797, with frame  
annex later

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Henry Francisco (d. 1852)

Present Condition: Original, unoccupied

Number of Stories: One and one-half and cellar, and  
two and one-half

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry  
Exterior walls - rubble work stone masonry  
to eaveline all around in original  
house; frame clapboarded in annex  
Interior walls - stone masonry party wall  
and frame partitions  
Chimneys - brick, built into inside of  
gable end walls  
Roof - gabled, wood shingled on original  
house, slate on annex

Historical Data:

The identity of the original owner of the  
stone masonry section of this two-part farmhouse has  
been discovered by search of title as recorded in the  
County archives reported as follows:

By a deed of division of the real estate of Cornelius Garritse\* (Garritson), deceased, among his three daughters and their respective husbands dated 14 October 1779, two of them, Garrit Jansen Garritson and wife Margaret and Simeon Jansen Van Winckle and wife Claesye quitclaimed to Henry Jansen Garritson during his lifetime, in right of his wife Elizabeth, deceased, and after his death to their son John Garretson (all the parties being of Acquackanonk Township, Essex County) in consideration of ten shillings, the following three tracts of land. (1) One-third of the swamp or meadow which the said Cornelius Garritse claimed by release from Jacob Van Winckle and Jacobus Post, dated 15 January 1759. (2) The eastern half of the land which he purchased from the heirs of Richard Bradberry, both properties being in Acquackanonk Township, and (3) one-third of the land he claimed in Bergen County. No description of these tracts by metes and bounds is given. The deed was witnessed by Henry Garritse and Hessel Peterse, but was not recorded until 29 February 1797, some 17 years later. By another deed of 14 October 1779, the said Henry J. Garritse, Garrit J. Garritse and his wife Margaret quitclaimed to the other heirs, said Simeon J. Van Winckle and his wife Claesye their share of the estate, including the homestead farm "where the said deceased Cornelius Garritse did dwell upon" and they occupied it thereafter. From this last, it is clear that the house here surveyed was not that one occupied by him.

The grantee Henry Garritse abovesaid, being still of Acquackanonk Township, conveyed to Henry Francisco of the same place by deed of 8 February 1797, in consideration of 1000 Pounds, an irregular tract of 101.43 acres there, bounded north by the lands of Thomas Speer and William Manning, east by those of Isaac Vier and David Vier, south by Sindell's mill and west by those of James Post. Also conveyed

\* Cornelius Gerritse was a large landowner at the "Boght" (bend of Passaic River) and lived there about the time the deed (for the Dutch church lot, 1762) was given, about where the old Van Winkle homestead (late Riverside Hotel) stood prior to 1873. (Wm. Nelson, History of the Old Dutch Church at Totowa, Paterson, N.J. (1892) p. 26.

was a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acre lot in the Long meadow, bounded east by the Great Ditch, north by Collier's farm, west by Badgley's farm and south by Jonas Crane, "Together with all and singular the profits, privileges and advantages with the appurtenances to the same belonging" which omission of "house" would indicate that none then stood on either tract. No recital of grantor's title to these lands is given in this deed, so that they are only assumed here to have been part of those quitclaimed to him in 1779 as abovesaid.

By his will dated 25 July 1849 and proved 3 April 1852, the grantee Henry Francisco abovenamed, of Caldwell Township<sup>(a)</sup>, devised to his wife Sarah one horse, one cow, kitchen furniture and "one of the rooms of my dwelling house which she may choose and as much of the cellar and garret as she may want for her use, and sufficient firewood to be brought to her door by my sons Peter and Calvin and as much of the different kinds of grain usually raised on the farm as she may need to be furnished equally by my sons and to maintain her horse and cow or such others as she may get.....as long as she remains my widow." To his two youngest daughters (not named) he devised \$50 each when 21 or at marriage, and mentions two daughters married. He directed his executors to sell his lands in the Great Piece meadows, Essex County, and divide the proceeds among those four daughters. To his son Josiah he devised \$500. "I have divided my homestead farm by a line running South 58 degrees 30 minutes east from the lower step of the

(a) Caldwell Township created by Act of Legislature in 1798 dividing Newark and Acquackanonk Townships into three.

pediment\* in front of my dwelling house, opposite the center of the entry or hall door, to the east end of the farm, also by a line running from the first corner of my said farm from the Big Ditch along the north side of the farm north 66 degrees west 5 chains and 24 links, opposite the center of the back door of any said dwelling house, thence through the center of the same to the beginning place of the first line in front of the house, thence along the said line, running parallel with the east side of the waggon shed maybe four feet from the waggon house, to opposite the northeasterly corner of the said waggon house, thence along the northerly end of the same to the middle of the public road, thence along the same to the north side of the farm, thence along another line south 32 degrees west 3 chains and 63 links to the beginning, and also by a line beginning at a distance of 9 chains and 55 links from the said Big Ditch along the north side of said farm, from thence across the same south 24 degrees 30 minutes west to the south side thereof, between which last mentioned line and the public road there remains another lot." He states also the division of a woodlot on "the mountain northeast from my dwelling house," all by a map dated 14 April 1849, and devised all these lands to his sons Peter and Calvin separately as follows. To Peter he gave the lot adjoining the Big Ditch along the north side of the farm, the lot lying on the south side of the line from the lower step of the pediment in the front of the house to the east end of the farm, at the public road, and the second lot described in the division above, also the west side of the woodlot. To the son Calvin were given the remaining two lots of the homestead farm, "excepting one-half of the saw mill and of the water which I give to my son Peter," and to Calvin the eastern part of the woodlot. "The second and third lots given to Peter will interfere with the present way from the road to the barn, but it is my will the same shall always remain open for the use of Calvin, his heirs and assigns. It is also my will that Peter shall have the privilege of using the present way in the cellar and up in the garret, both

\* i.e. platform porch, or "stoep" as the Dutch called it.

of which being in Calvin's part of this house." The two sons were named executors.

The map mentioned as annexed to this will shows Henry Francisco's farm extending from the "Big Ditch" southeast to the "Upper Road",# traversed in a north to south direction by a "Public Road"\* near the center of the farm, with the house to the west and the barn and mill to the east thereof, and the division line through the center of the house as described in the will. By those lines the farm was quartered alternately to the two sons, and the house became their common residence. Evidently by the date of this will, 1849, the frame annex had been erected to enlarge the original stone house for the accommodation of the families of these two brothers.

But ten days after the probate of their father's will, one of the brothers Peter H. Francisco, with wife Elizabeth, conveyed to the other, Calvin Francisco all his share of the paternal homestead, in consideration of \$1100. By deed of 1st December 1854, said Calvin Francisco, and his wife Harriet, of Caldwell Township, passed the same share back to his brother Peter.

This Peter H. Francisco evidently continued or then resumed residence in the homestead (here surveyed), and at the date of his will, 22 July 1862 (proved 6 August following), by which he devised to his wife Elizabeth the use of all his property for the support of herself and of their three children, with permission to sell part thereof if necessary, during her widowhood and afterwards to be equally divided among the children, Henry B., Sarah J., and Frank equally.

# Described also as the road from Christopher T. Sindle's Mill to Caldwell in the deed of 13 Apr. 1852 cited, probably the present Mountain Ave.

\* Described also as the road from Fairfield to Franklin, 1852.

By deed of 20 December 1893, two of these children and heirs, Sarah J. Cook of East Orange, wife of George H. Cook, and Frank Francisco of Caldwell, conveyed their shares in part of the estate to the third, Henry B. Francisco, describing one lot of some 20 acres fronting 725 feet on the southeast side of Kussmaul Hill Road\*, and another lot of some 15 acres on the north side of Greenbrook Road, adjacent to the first lot.

Henry B. Francisco and his wife Elizabeth, who thus came into full possession of the house, were residing therein, or elsewhere in the Borough of North Caldwell\*\* on 16 December 1925, on which date they gave a deed to the Greenbrook Acres corporation conveying the two lots last above mentioned, as one tract. This grantee conveyed the house and part of the same tract to the Hillside Gardens corporation on 28 February 1927, and on 7 November following the latter conveyed to W. Searls Rose and his wife Ruth Starr Rose, of the Borough of North Caldwell, a one acre tract thereof on which stands the house surveyed, describing frontage on a private road designated as Allen Road. These grantees remain the owners at the time of our survey of the house in May 1940, but it was then unoccupied.

#### Bibliography:

Search of title in Land and Probate records of Essex County by Thomas J. Riley, H.A.B.S. abstractor, received 12 July 1940

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

\* Now Central or Grandview Avenues. The homestead is on this lot cut from the original tract.

\*\* Created 1898 from Caldwell Township.

Saw info